STALKE GALLERI

STALKE OUT OF SPACE

Michael Coughlan, Gert Rappenecker and Janne Räisänen

Group Show

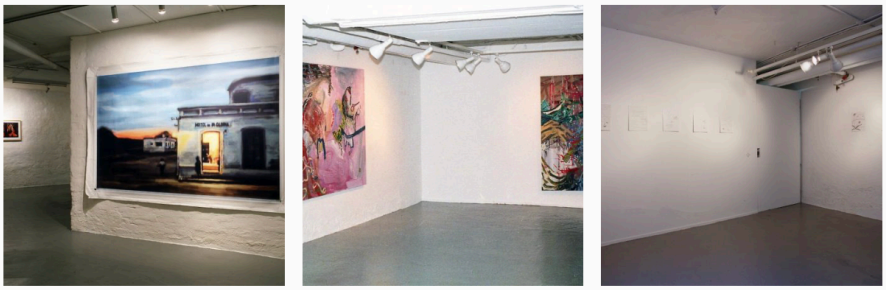
Stalke Galleri
Vesterbrogade 14A
29.9 to 11.11 2000

For several years prior to the exhibition, Los Angeles–based artist Michael Coughlan had exhibited sculptures, drawings, and paintings in the United States and Europe. His project at Stalke Galleri consisted of twenty-four to thirty drawings executed in pen on paper. Through an economy of line, these works combined abstraction, landscape, and figuration in a humorous and often deadpan manner. While humor and a subtle sense of irony pervaded the works, Coughlan used them as part of a sincere search for images and formal structures that resisted predetermined systems of meaning.

The works included in the exhibition ranged from desert landscapes with apocalyptic and, at times, sexually implicit narratives to abstract forms endowed with figurative personalities and a sense of the uncanny. Through this open-ended exploration of form and imagery, Coughlan engaged humor as a means of navigating a fine line between absurd skepticism and profound meaning.

Gert Rappenecker, born in 1955 in Freiburg im Breisgau, worked with a wide range of media and repeatedly created provocative interfaces between projections marked by nostalgic longing and the cool distance of industrially produced materials. At Stalke Galleri, Rappenecker presented an installation related to his recent works. His practice consistently challenged viewers, as the use of diverse media resisted unambiguous interpretation. Rappenecker was concerned with transforming “inanimate formalisms” into images charged with Romantic illusion, and with exploring the metaphysical dimensions and meanings of the Romantic, the soulful, and the poetic.

Janne Räisänen, born in 1971 in Pudasjärvi, Finland, and based in Helsinki, developed paintings characterized by a rhythmic flow of figures and formations. At times, color was applied in a pastose, relief-like manner, while other areas of the canvas remained untouched. His small-format works often focused on detail, whereas his large-scale paintings were filled with a multitude of details and UFO-like figures that viewers could allow their gaze to move across, grasp, and contemplate. In his exhibition at Stalke Galleri, Räisänen presented several new paintings.



Exhibition views from the 2000 group show with Michael Coughlan, Gert Rappenecker, and Janne Räisänen at Stalke Galleri.